THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (e) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 was recently amended and the amended provisions have come into force w.e.f. 09.01.2002. The thrust of the amendments is aimed at reducing multiplicity of trade unions, promoting internal democracy, rank and file leadership of the trade unions and facilitating their orderly growth and regulation.

All India Manufacturers Organisation (AIMO) have represented to the Government that outside office bearers should be excluded from the unions' membership. Another representation was also received from Karnataka Employers Association, Greater Mysore Chamber of Industry, Employers Federation of Southern India (K). They have suggested that availability of legal aid to workers and trade unions from public funds to facilitate them to hire legal counsels could lead to encouraging growth of litigation.

Ministry of Labour have not received any suggestions from any industry Associations to make a distinction between trade union and registered trade union.

Legislation on conditions at work places

*256. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Labour Commission in its report submitted to Government, recommended steps to check multiplicity of trade unions, reduction in holidays and empowering employers to lay-off and retrench without prior permission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has suggested for a legislation on conditions at work places and another for unorganized sectors, besides advising Government to notify a national floor level minimum wage, giving State Governments powers to fix minimum wage which should be below the national level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Commission on Labour in its report submitted to Government on 29.06.2002 has made a wide ranging recommendations on various aspects of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women &

child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector, wages, etc. The report is under process in consultation with the representatives of trade unions, employers' organizations, labour law practitioners, eminent persons, academicians etc. The report of the Commission was discussed at the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002. Also, the recommendations relating to unorganized sector workers were discussed, in detail, at the National Seminar on Unorganised Sector held on 7-8 November, 2002. The recommendations are proposed to be further discussed at a tripartite committee meeting in 2003.

Legislation to control private cell phone companies

*257. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would enact legislation to control the private cell phone companies;

(b) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to control the plethora of private cell phone companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) sector is governed by the existing legislations *i.e.* Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(b) and (c) CMTS Providers are bound by the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement signed with them. The performance and quality of service of the CMTS providers is monitored by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through quaterly reports as laid down by TRAI in terms of the provisions of TRAI Act.

Difference in the prices of sugarcane

†*258. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate prices have been fixed by Government and the State Governments for purchasing sugarcane;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.